

sir, if you fear that using U.S. air strikes might draw the United States into a ground war there?

The President. I just don't want to discuss our evaluation of the options anymore. I've told you that there's never been a serious discussion in this country about the introduction of ground forces into an ongoing conflict there.

Gay Rights March

Q. With hundreds of thousands of gays in Washington this weekend for the march, did you ever reconsider your decision to leave town for this weekend? Did you ever consider in any way participating in some of the activities?

The President. No.

Q. Why not?

The President. Because I—and, basically, I wouldn't participate in other marches. I think once you become President, on balance, except under unusual circumstances, that is not what should be done. But more importantly, I'm going to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, a trip that presumably most of you

would want me to make, to try to focus anew on what I think are the fundamental issues at stake for our country right now. And I expect that I will say something about the fact that a lot of Americans have come here asking for a climate that is free of discrimination, asking basically to be able to work hard and live by the rules and be treated like other American citizens if they do that, and just that. And that's always been my position, not only for the gays who will be here but for others as well.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 13th news conference began at 1 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. During the news conference, the following persons were referred to: Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate and concentration camp survivor; Dante Caputo, U.N./OAS Special Envoy to Haiti; Lawrence Pezzullo, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State on Haiti; and Adm. Frank B. Kelso II, USN, Chief of Naval Operations.

Statement on Advancing U.S. Relations With Russia and the Other New Independent States

April 23, 1993

Since my summit in Vancouver with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, I have pursued a number of measures to implement our policy of economic and strategic partnership between our two countries. These reflect my conviction that the movement toward political and economic reform in Russia and the other new states of the former Soviet Union is the greatest security challenge of our day and can fuel our own future prosperity as well.

It is time to put our relations with Russia and the other states on a new footing. As an important step in that process, we need to update the accumulated cold war vestiges that remain in U.S. laws and practices. Our statutes and regulations are filled with restrictions on a Communist Soviet Union, a nation that no longer exists. Many of those provisions needlessly impede our relations with the democratic states that replaced the Soviet Union.

Many in Congress have already taken the lead on re-examining these provisions. Today I have

asked Ambassador-at-Large Strobe Talbott to coordinate our Executive review of these laws and statutes on an expedited basis, with the goal of revising or removing them where appropriate and consistent with our security and other national interests. Related to this process, our administration will also begin a thorough review, working with our allies, of how to reorient export controls on sensitive technology. I ask the bipartisan leaders in Congress to work with us to coordinate and expedite these reviews.

Today I am also announcing steps to help build a new security partnership with Russia and the other states. We will accelerate the deactivation of nuclear weapons systems already scheduled for elimination under the START I Treaty, while working to accelerate dismantlement in Russia and the three other states with nuclear weapons on their territory. We are beginning a comprehensive review of measures that could enhance strategic stability, including the possibility of each side reprogramming its

nuclear missiles so they are not routinely aimed at each other. And we will be starting a consultative process within the next 2 months with Russia, our allies, and other states, aimed at commencing negotiations toward a multilateral nuclear test ban.

Finally, we are continuing our efforts to strike a partnership with political and economic reformers throughout Russia and the other states. We are continuing work with our G-7 partners to assemble the package of multilateral assistance that Secretaries Bentsen and Christopher

recently negotiated in Tokyo. And I am continuing consultation with Congress over the further efforts our own Nation will take to assist Russia's reforms.

The hardest work of reform must be done by the people of Russia and the other states themselves, and we applaud the courageous steps they have taken. Yet we dare not miss opportunities to do what we can to bolster their processes of democratization and economic liberalization. The steps I am announcing today will advance those objectives.

Statement on the Death of Cesar Chavez

April 23, 1993

The labor movement and all Americans have lost a great leader with the death today of Cesar Chavez. An inspiring fighter for the cause to which he dedicated his life, Cesar Chavez was an authentic hero to millions of people throughout the world.

I share the sadness his family, friends, followers, and supporters all feel upon his passing away. We can be proud of his enormous accom-

plishments and the dignity and comfort he brought to the lives of so many of our country's least powerful and most dispossessed workers. He had a profound impact upon the people of the United States. My deepest sympathies go out to all his loved ones.

NOTE: The related proclamation of April 28 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Signing Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Legislation

April 23, 1993

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1335, the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations" Act of 1993. This Act provides \$4 billion in emergency unemployment compensation to approximately 1.9 million unemployed American workers. This critical assistance will help the unemployed and their families with grocery bills, mortgage payments and other expenses while they seek new employment. I am disappointed that the job-producing elements of the original version of the legislation were forced to be removed from it.

Our efforts to create jobs, increase investment, and safeguard our communities and our children, were frustrated by the use of parliamentary tactics in the Senate in the furtherance of politics-as-usual. The losers, in the end, were jobless Americans looking for the dignity

of employment, and communities across the United States looking forward to meeting unmet national needs through growth-oriented efforts provided by the legislation in its original form. It is my hope that the Congress will consider further legislation to produce the jobs that are needed to strengthen and sustain the current economic recovery.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
April 23, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 1335, approved April 23, was assigned Public Law No. 103-24. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 24.